

✧ Medical Officer's Annual Report ✧

FOR

LLANFRECHFA UPPER.

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Cwmbran, Feb., 1895.

Gentlemen,—I beg to lay before you my annual report for the year 1894.

Thirty-nine (39) deaths were registered, being at the rate of 13·17 per thousand per annum.

It is gratifying to know that though the death rate last year (1893) was the lowest on record, viz., 14·13, this year it is even lower.

The first six months of the year were evidently the healthiest, only thirteen (13) deaths being recorded.

Seven infants under one year died, being at the rate of 61·8 per thousand registered births. This rate is a considerable improvement on that of last year. There were six deaths between the ages of one and five years; no deaths between the ages of five and fifteen years; two deaths between the ages of fifteen and 25 years; fifteen deaths between the ages of 25 and 65 years; nine deaths over 65 years of age.

Zymotic Diseases caused one death only, the rate being ·3 per thousand.

Phthisis caused five deaths, an increase of three upon last year, giving a rate of 1·6 per thousand. The dampness of the atmosphere and the clay soil may account for the number of these cases in the district.

Chest affections, viz., *Bronchitis*, *Pneumonia* and *Pleurisy* caused twelve deaths.

Diseases of the heart accounted for five deaths.

There were two deaths from injuries

One hundred and thirteen (113) births were registered, 65 boys and 58 girls, the rate being 38·1 per 1,000.

Infectious Diseases.—There was a slight epidemic of Measles in September and October, the disease having spread from the neighbouring parish of Llantarnam. Most of the cases were in Spring Vale and New Houses. No deaths were caused by it.

Whooping Cough was also present, but the cases were not numerous.

Typhoid Fever was the most serious zymotic disease met with during the year, eight cases of it occurring. The greater number of these cases were in the Mount Pleasant district. The first case was evidently imported, the boy coming home ill; a girl in the same house then took it and died. The drainage of this district was in a very imperfect condition, but the Local Board at my suggestion, had a main sewer constructed, and after considerable delay nearly all the houses have been connected to it during the year. The water closets, in my opinion, are, in some cases, too near the houses, and too often the tenants of the houses are to blame for allowing their drains to get choked up through not flushing them often enough. The remaining cases occurred at Pontrhydyrun and The Square, Upper Cwmbran.

Diarrhoea and Dysentery.—Only one death occurred from this class of disease.

I desire to draw the Council's attention to the necessity of adopting the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act. It is utterly impossible for your inspector of nuisances or myself to do our duty properly unless we know of infectious cases at once. I have strongly recommended the Local Board every year to adopt the Act, but they have taken no notice of my recommendation. The County Council also are urging all districts, where the Act is not in force, to adopt it without delay.

Drainage.—The drainage of the Mount Pleasant and Club-row district has been completed, and all the houses with few exceptions are connected to the new sewer. As I have pointed out already, the water closets in some cases are too near the houses. The system of disposing the sewage of New Houses and State-row, as already reported, requires altering, and I trust that the Council will carry out, or see carried out, the method proposed, viz., to have all the water closets and slop water drains emptying into a main sewer.

The drainage of the houses on the tram-road, near the Crown Inn, Upper Cwmbran, also wants attention. The present system is earth closets, the contents of which, when cleaned out, are spread over the gardens of the cottages, and as these gardens are very small, the soil must be saturated with all the elements suitable for an outbreak of typhoid fever. I have reported on the state of these houses for two years. The greatest difficulty to cope with in order to keep the district in a proper sanitary condition is the absence of means to dispose of ashes and refuse matter. At present it is either spread over the gardens attached to the house, or thrown in heaps on the road side. This can only be remedied by employing a scavenger's cart to visit the houses at regular intervals (at least twice a week). Your inspector of nuisances has also great trouble in getting nuisances abated at once. I think the Council ought to give him fuller power in these matters. The present drainage cannot be improved upon without large expense, but if more cleanliness could be insisted on, we should hear less about typhoid fever.

Your inspector of nuisances has given during the year 15 written and 90 verbal notices to abate various nuisances, all of which have been attended to. The district has been inspected periodically, and when any nuisances, etc., came to my notice I have given your inspector instructions what to do.

The slaughterhouses have been regularly inspected and found in order.

The disposal of sewage remains the same as last year, the largest portion being utilised on the land. Some little, however, finds its way into the canal and brooks.

The water supply has been very good and abundant.

I remain, gentlemen, yours obediently,

W. E. C. MURPHY, M.B. & B.A.

